REMARKS

Claims 1-22 remain pending in the application.

No new issues are raised, nor is further consideration required, as a result of the amendments made herein. It is respectfully requested that the Amendment be entered.

Claims 1-22 over Nardone

In the Office Action, claims 1-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by "U.S. Patent No. 6,415,031" allegedly to Nardone et al. The Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

The Applicants respectfully point out that the cited patent number, USP 6,415,031 is to Colligan et al. ("Colligan"). A DIFFERENT patent of record in this application with Nardone as an inventor is USP 5,805,700 to Nardone et al. ("Nardone"). There is confusion as to exactly WHICH reference the Examiner is citing against the Applicant. Nevertheless, it is clear that NEITHER reference, whether it is Colligan or Nardone, discloses the invention.

In particular, claims 1-7 recite a packet including a data payload including a **scrambled** central portion **and** an **unscrambled portion**, with a header portion that is entirely unscrambled. Claims 8, 9, 17 and 18 recite **scrambling a first central portion of a data payload** of some data packets **without scrambling a header of the same.** Claims 10-14, 19 and 20 recite **scrambling only a central** portion of every nth one of data packets. Claims 15, 16, 21 and 22 recite **descrambling only a central** portion of every nth data packet.

Thus, ALL claims 1-21 clearly recite a data packet that has <u>only a CENTRAL</u> portion of a **data payload** scrambled.

Colligan teaches encryption of a premium video signal, with the encrypted signal being multiplexed in with unscrambled signals. (Colligan, col. 4, lines 13-15 and 26-28). Colligan teaches a VIDEO signal, and encryption of an entire video signal. Colligan fails to disclose ANY data packet, much less a data

packet that has only a central portion of a data payload scrambled as claimed by all claims 1-21.

If it's Nardone that the Examiner is referring to, Nardone also teaches a VIDEO signal. According to Nardone, SOME 'basic transfer units' (BTUs) are encrypted, while others are not. (See, e.g., Nardone, col. 3, line 65 to col. 4, line 3) In a given example, Nardone explains that a BTU is a data packet. (Nardone, col. 3, lines 13-14). Thus, according to Nardone, SOME data packets of a video stream are encrypted, while others are not.

The present invention breaks down a SINGLE data packet such that only a central portion of a data payload of a SINGLE data packet is scrambled, as recited in claims 1-21.
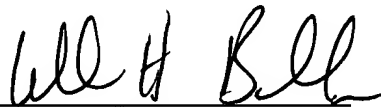
Nardone fails to disclose encryption of only ANY portion less than all of a data payload, much less encryption of only a CENTRAL portion of a data payload as claimed by claims 1-21.

Thus, whether the Examiner is referring to Colligan or to Nardone in the rejection, claims 1-21 are patentable over the cited art. It is therefore respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

Conclusion

All objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the subject application is in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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